

TABLE 1. **Summary, United States: Mean hourly earnings¹ and weekly hours by selected characteristics, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey,² 1997**

Worker and establishment characteristics and geographic areas	Total			Private industry			State and local government		
	Hourly earnings		Mean weekly hours	Hourly earnings		Mean weekly hours	Hourly earnings		Mean weekly hours
	Mean	Relative error ³ (percent)		Mean	Relative error ³ (percent)		Mean	Relative error ³ (percent)	
Total	\$15.09	0.6	36.5	\$14.39	0.7	36.4	\$17.82	0.7	36.5
Worker characteristics:⁴									
White-collar occupations ⁵	18.59	.6	36.7	18.08	.8	36.8	20.08	.8	36.4
Professional specialty and technical	22.89	.6	36.3	22.30	.7	36.6	23.84	.8	35.9
Executive, administrative, and managerial	27.00	.9	40.1	27.86	.8	40.5	23.95	1.9	38.6
Sales	12.78	3.5	33.0	12.80	3.5	33.0	11.13	4.7	33.1
Administrative support	11.53	.6	36.9	11.54	.7	37.1	11.50	.9	36.3
Blue-collar occupations ⁵	12.36	.8	38.3	12.24	.8	38.4	13.78	1.2	37.3
Precision production, craft, and repair	15.86	1.2	39.8	15.88	1.3	39.8	15.71	1.6	39.6
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	11.03	1.1	39.6	11.02	1.1	39.6	12.89	6.1	38.3
Transportation and material moving	13.24	1.2	37.5	13.30	1.4	38.3	12.93	1.7	33.6
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	9.34	1.0	35.5	9.18	1.0	35.2	11.37	2.1	38.3
Service occupations ⁵	9.09	.8	33.0	7.51	.6	31.9	13.26	1.3	36.6
Full time	15.77	.6	39.6	15.12	.7	39.8	18.20	.8	38.9
Part time	8.89	1.1	21.0	8.37	1.2	21.4	12.27	1.4	19.2
Union	16.91	.9	36.9	14.90	1.3	37.1	19.74	1.0	36.7
Nonunion	14.56	.7	36.3	14.29	.8	36.3	16.20	.9	36.4
Time	15.05	.6	36.4	14.31	.7	36.4	17.82	.7	36.5
Incentive	16.21	2.7	38.3	16.21	2.7	38.3	—	—	—
Establishment characteristics:									
Goods producing	(6)	(6)	(6)	15.45	1.0	39.8	(6)	(6)	(6)
Service producing	(6)	(6)	(6)	13.85	.9	34.9	(6)	(6)	(6)
50-99 workers ⁷	12.52	1.2	35.3	12.44	1.3	35.3	13.96	3.6	36.1
100-499 workers	13.68	.7	36.2	13.32	.8	36.3	16.89	1.4	35.6
500-999 workers	16.15	1.5	37.4	15.66	1.7	37.8	18.20	1.8	35.7
1,000-2,499 workers	15.54	6.8	36.7	14.91	8.5	36.9	17.51	1.9	35.9
2,500 workers or more	19.32	.9	37.2	20.21	1.6	37.0	18.57	1.0	37.4
Geographic areas:⁸									
Metropolitan	15.73	.7	36.3	15.06	.8	36.3	18.46	.8	36.5
Nonmetropolitan	11.84	1.2	37.1	10.84	1.4	37.2	15.07	1.8	36.5
New England	16.96	1.8	35.1	16.29	2.1	35.0	20.14	2.1	35.2
Middle Atlantic	17.42	1.5	35.7	16.47	1.7	35.8	21.25	1.5	35.5
East North Central	15.45	.9	36.2	14.85	1.0	36.3	18.51	1.3	35.8
West North Central	14.44	1.8	36.3	13.70	2.2	36.2	17.24	.8	36.8
South Atlantic	13.73	1.4	37.0	13.20	1.8	36.7	15.47	1.4	37.9
East South Central	11.88	2.3	37.8	11.34	2.5	38.0	15.22	1.7	36.9
West South Central	13.82	1.0	37.2	13.45	1.2	37.0	14.96	1.3	37.8
Mountain	14.04	1.9	36.5	12.97	2.6	36.4	17.42	1.9	36.5
Pacific	16.88	1.5	36.2	15.89	1.8	36.4	20.23	1.7	35.5

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, and holidays; nonproduction bonuses; and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² This survey covers the 48 contiguous States. Collection was conducted from October 1996 through July 1998. The average reference month was August 1997.

³ The relative standard error is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

⁴ Employees are classified as working either a full- or part-time schedule based on the definition used by each establishment. Union workers are those whose wages are determined through collective bargaining. Wages of time workers are based solely on hourly rate or salary; incentive workers are those whose wages are at least partially based on productivity payments such as piece rates, commissions, and production

bonuses.

⁵ A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

⁶ Classification of establishments into goods-producing and service-producing industries applies to private industry only.

⁷ Establishments classified with 50-99 workers may contain establishments with fewer than 50 due to staff reductions between survey sampling and collection.

⁸ Data are presented for metropolitan and nonmetropolitan area divisions as well as 9 census area divisions. See footnote 6 in the text for a list of States in each census area division.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria.

TABLE 2. Summary, metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas:¹ Mean hourly earnings² and weekly hours by selected characteristics, National Compensation Survey,³ 1997

Worker and establishment characteristics and geographic areas	Total			Metropolitan areas			Nonmetropolitan areas		
	Hourly earnings		Mean weekly hours	Hourly earnings		Mean weekly hours	Hourly earnings		Mean weekly hours
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)		Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)		Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	
Total	\$15.09	0.6	36.5	\$15.73	0.7	36.3	\$11.84	1.2	37.1
Private industry	14.39	.7	36.4	15.06	.8	36.3	10.84	1.4	37.2
State and local government	17.82	.7	36.5	18.46	.8	36.5	15.07	1.8	36.5
Worker characteristics:⁵									
White-collar occupations ⁶	18.59	.6	36.7	19.07	.8	36.6	15.15	1.2	37.0
Professional specialty and technical	22.89	.6	36.3	23.34	.6	36.3	19.63	1.2	36.5
Executive, administrative, and managerial	27.00	.9	40.1	27.40	1.0	40.1	23.15	2.6	39.7
Sales	12.78	3.5	33.0	13.55	2.2	32.6	8.72	4.5	35.3
Administrative support	11.53	.6	36.9	11.73	.7	36.9	10.10	1.5	37.4
Blue-collar occupations ⁶	12.36	.8	38.3	12.78	.7	38.2	10.74	2.1	38.8
Precision production, craft, and repair	15.86	1.2	39.8	16.44	.8	39.7	13.27	4.5	39.9
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	11.03	1.1	39.6	11.39	1.0	39.6	10.04	2.7	39.7
Transportation and material moving	13.24	1.2	37.5	13.46	1.2	37.6	11.85	4.2	36.7
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	9.34	1.0	35.5	9.48	1.1	35.1	8.81	2.0	37.0
Service occupations ⁶	9.09	.8	33.0	9.40	1.0	32.6	8.00	1.5	34.5
Full time	15.77	.6	39.6	16.51	.7	39.6	12.15	1.3	39.7
Part time	8.89	1.1	21.0	9.01	1.2	21.1	8.09	1.5	20.6
Union	16.91	.9	36.9	17.32	.6	36.7	14.20	4.5	38.1
Nonunion	14.56	.7	36.3	15.25	.8	36.2	11.32	1.4	36.8
Time	15.05	.6	36.4	15.69	.7	36.3	11.87	1.2	37.0
Incentive	16.21	2.7	38.3	16.87	2.5	38.2	10.74	11.4	38.8
Establishment characteristics:									
Goods producing ⁷	15.45	1.0	39.8	16.40	.8	39.8	12.06	2.3	39.9
Service producing ⁷	13.85	.9	34.9	14.44	1.0	34.9	9.77	1.3	35.2
50-99 workers ⁸	12.52	1.2	35.3	13.02	1.3	35.3	10.23	2.6	35.3
100-499 workers	13.68	.7	36.2	14.10	.8	36.1	11.78	1.7	36.5
500-999 workers	16.15	1.5	37.4	16.65	1.4	37.2	14.29	3.2	38.2
1,000-2,499 workers	15.54	6.8	36.7	17.03	1.9	36.0	10.91	15.8	38.6
2,500 workers or more	19.32	.9	37.2	19.34	.9	37.2	18.23	8.8	39.3
Geographic areas:⁹									
New England	16.96	1.8	35.1	17.42	1.8	35.2	13.75	5.3	34.0
Middle Atlantic	17.42	1.5	35.7	17.75	1.3	35.7	12.22	7.4	36.1
East North Central	15.45	.9	36.2	15.90	1.0	36.2	12.98	1.3	36.4
West North Central	14.44	1.8	36.3	15.40	2.2	36.3	11.82	3.7	36.2
South Atlantic	13.73	1.4	37.0	14.17	1.7	36.9	11.56	4.0	37.4
East South Central	11.88	2.3	37.8	13.60	1.6	37.0	10.22	3.7	38.7
West South Central	13.82	1.0	37.2	14.13	1.2	37.2	11.88	4.0	37.3
Mountain	14.04	1.9	36.5	14.17	2.4	36.4	13.51	2.4	36.6
Pacific	16.88	1.5	36.2	17.06	1.5	36.2	13.37	2.9	36.1

¹ Metropolitan areas can be a Metropolitan Statistical Area or Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area as defined by the Office of Management and Budget, 1994. Nonmetropolitan areas are counties that do not fit the definitions above.

² Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, and holidays; nonproduction bonuses; and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

³ This survey covers the 48 contiguous States. Collection was conducted from October 1996 through July 1998. The average reference month was August 1997.

⁴ The relative standard error is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

⁵ Employees are classified as working either a full- or part-time schedule based on

the definition used by each establishment. Union workers are those whose wages are determined through collective bargaining. Wages of time workers are based solely on hourly rate or salary; incentive workers are those whose wages are at least partially based on productivity payments such as piece rates, commissions, and production bonuses.

⁶ A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

⁷ Classification of establishments into goods-producing and service-producing industries applies to private industry only.

⁸ Establishments classified with 50-99 workers may contain establishments with fewer than 50 workers due to reduction in staff from the time of sampling to data collection.

⁹ See footnote 6 in the text for a list of States in each census area division.